FILED

MAY 10 1989

RICHARD H. WEARE, CLERK UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

> BY <u>/s/ C. Farni</u>, DEPUTY CLERK

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

In the matter of)	
)	
MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR)	
COURT REPORTING SERVICES)	
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA)	GENERAL ORDER 98-17
)	
)	
)	
)	
)	

The Official Court Reporter Plan promulgated in GENERAL ORDER 127 is vacated, and the following plan is substituted as the Plan for the District of Arizona.

MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR COURT REPORTING SERVICES IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

A. INTRODUCTION.

The Court desires through this Plan to achieve effective control and management of court reporting services (this includes stenographic, computer assisted, and electronic sound recording operators). The Clerk of Court (Clerk) is authorized administratively by the Court to supervise the combined court reporting and recording operations of the Court. The Clerk of Court shall designate a Court Reporting Supervisor who will be responsible for the day-to-day management of an efficient court

reporting and recording service within the Court.

The Plan is designed to:

- 1. obtain effective management of the court reporting and recording operations by proper supervision and control;
- 2. make clear that court reporters and ESR operators though assigned to a particular judge serve the court en banc and may be assigned when needed throughout the District for any active judge, senior judge, visiting district judge, or U.S. magistrate;
- 3. obtain the most effective utilization of both the services of court reporters and ESR operators by equitable distribution of the workload;
 - 4. avoid backlogs of transcript and assure prompt delivery;
- 5. assure appointment and retention of fully-qualified court reporters and recorders, and dismissal of court reporters and recorders who are no longer performing in a satisfactory manner;
 - 6. minimize the use of contract reporters;
 - 7. enhance the efficient operation of the court and further its mission.

B. APPOINTMENT AND DISMISSAL OF COURT REPORTERS AND RECORDERS.

The Court is presently authorized 7 official court reporters and two ESR operators.

The Clerk of Court has been designated by the Court to appoint court reporters with the approval of the Court. Court reporters shall be appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Court Reporter Act, 28 U.S.C. Section 753, and the policies and procedures of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and the Judicial Conference of the United States. Only fully-qualified reporters shall be appointed as court reporters of this Court. All newly-appointed court reporters and recorders shall serve a six-month probationary period. Court reporters who do not perform in a competent and satisfactory manner shall be subject to dismissal by the Clerk with the approval of the Court.

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19 20

21

22.

23 24

25

26

27

as shall be directed by the Court.

D. <u>ASSIGNMENT OF COURT REPORTING AND RECORDING STAFF</u>.

- 1. Court reporters and recorders serve the Court en banc; therefore, it is within the discretion of the Clerk to assign and reassign court reporters and recorders to active judges, senior judges, visiting district judges, and U.S. magistrates in a manner designed to equally distribute the total court reporting workload efficiently and cost effectively.
- 2. The use of contract reporters and per diem reporters shall be kept to an absolute minimum. Whenever possible, the use of electronic sound recording shall be used in lieu of hiring a contract reporter.
- 3. As employees of the Clerk's staff, court reporters and recorders are required to be at the Courthouse from 8:30 a.m., to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. An answering machine shall be operational during any absence from their office. The message is to be updated sufficiently to indicate current date and time, the reason for absence from their office (i.e., court, out-of-district assignment, annual leave), and anticipated duration. If the absences exceeds 24 hours, calls should be referred to the Court Reporting Supervisor.
 - 4. Travel of court reporters and recorders shall be kept to a minimum.

E. <u>TRANSCRIPTS</u>.

- Copies of all requests for transcripts shall be forwarded to the Court Reporting Supervisor or designee.
- 2. First priority shall be given to the production of transcript which involves incarcerated defendants, especially those cases which challenge the imposition of the death penalty, and to cases on appeal.
 - 3. Transcript for criminal appeals which challenge sentences imposed under the sentencing

guidelines issued by the U.S. Sentencing Commission pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 3742, shall be a priority.

- 4. The rates charged for transcripts produced by court reporters must conform to the current fee schedule which is posted in the Clerk's Office (Appendix A).
- 5. Furnishing accelerated transcript service in criminal cases is discouraged and the apportionment of the total cost of transcript service equally among the parties requesting such service is prohibited.
- 6. Transcript not delivered within the specified time periods prescribed by the Court are subject to fee discount provisions as follows:
- a. Transcript ordered for District Court purposes shall be delivered within thirty (30) days. Reporters who do not deliver transcript within thirty (30) days may charge only 90% of the prescribed fee unless an extension of time for the delivery of transcript has been granted by the Clerk of the District Court. The extension of time, if granted, will not exceed fifteen (15) days, unless extraordinary circumstances exist as determined by the Clerk.
- b. Transcript ordered for appeal purposes shall be delivered within (30) days unless an extension of time for delivery of transcript has been granted by the Clerk of the Court of Appeals. Reporters who do not deliver transcripts within thirty (30) days may charge only 90% of the prescribed fee; reporters who do not deliver transcript within sixty (60) days may charge only 80% of the prescribed fee, unless a waiver of the sanction provisions has been granted by the Clerk of Court of Appeals.

The Court Reporting Supervisor will monitor the charges to ensure compliance with the above guidelines.

7. Reporters and recorders who are consistently delinquent in delivery of transcripts, filing of original notes and tapes, and/or submission of required reports, may be subject to the imposition of

sanctions as determined by the Clerk.

8. Reporters who are found to be overcharging for transcripts by virtue of violations in page format, line format, or reduction in pitch, will be required to make immediate restitution.

F. <u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>.

- 1. Court reporters and recorders shall not perform any private (freelance) work.
- 2. A reporter shall not use a substitute reporter without the prior approval of the court reporting supervisor. In the event that a substitute reporter is approved by the Court Reporting Supervisor, the substitute reporter shall be hired by the reporter for the duration of the period in which the reporter is unavailable.
- 3. The work of the court reporters shall be "note-readable" so that the stenographic notes of a court reporter can be read by another reporter in the event of an emergency.
- 4. The marking, filing and storing of reporters' notes and recorders tapes shall be in accordance with the note storage procedures approved by this Court as outlined in Appendix B of this Plan.
- 5. Court reporters and recorders shall earn annual leave in accordance with the provisions of the Leave Act, 5 U.S.C. Section 6301, et seq. Guidelines for the administration of leave are attached as Appendix C.
- 6. Annual performance appraisals will be conducted by the Clerk of Court or designee for all court reporters and recorders.

G. AUTHORITY OF CLERK.

The Clerk shall administer this Plan on behalf of the Court, and the Clerk is fully authorized and empowered to implement and carry out the terms of this Plan subject to the right of the court reporter to appeal to the Court en banc.

- 6 -

1	Duly adopted, approved and ef	ffective this 10 th day of May, 1989.
2	/s/ Richard M. Bilby	/s/ Paul G. Rosenblatt
3	Richard M. Bilby, Chief Judge	Paul G. Rosenblatt, Judge
5	/s/ Charles L. Hardy Charles L. Hardy, Judge	/s/ Robert C. Broomfield Robert C. Broomfield, Judge
6 7	/s/ Alfredo C. Marquez Alfredo C. Marquez, Judge	/s/ Roger G. Strand Roger G. Strand, Judge
8	/s/ Earl H. Carroll Earl H. Carroll, Judge	/s/ C. A. Muecke C. A. Muecke, Senior Judge
9	/s/ William D. Browning	/s/ William P. Copple
10	William D. Browning, Judge	William P. Copple, Senior Judge
11		
12		
13		
1415		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		
	(5	

1	APPENDIX A	FILED	
2		SEP 25 1987	
3		RICHARD H. WEARE, CLERK UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	
4		FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA BY <u>/s/ C. Farni</u> ,	
5		DEPUTY CLERK	
6			
7	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT CO	URT	
8	FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA		
9			
10	In the matter of		
11	COURT REPORTERS' RATES)		
12	FOR TRANSCRIPTS)	ED 171	
13) GENERAL ORD)	EK 101	
14			
15)		
16)		
17	IT IS ORDERED that transcript rates to be charged by court	reporters in the United States	
18	District Court for the District of Arizona shall be as follows:		
19	Ordinary Transcript. (A transcript to be delivered within thirty calendar days after receipt of an order.)		
20	Original \$3	.00	
21	1,	.75 .50	
22	20		
23	Expedited Transcript. (A transcript to be delivered within seven calendar	days after receipt of an order.)	
24		.00	
25	1,	.75 .50	
26	Daily Transcript (A transcript to be delivered following adjournment a	nd prior to the normal opening	
27	<u>Daily Transcript</u> . (A transcript to be delivered following adjournment and prior to the normal opening hour of the Court on the following morning whether or not it actually be a Court day.)		
28	Original \$5	.00	

1 2	First copy to Each Party Each Additional Copy to the Same Party	1.00 .75
3	Hourly Transcript.	
4	Original	\$6.00
5	First Copy to Each Party Each Additional Copy to the Same Party	1.00 .75
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12	DATED this <u>25th</u> day of September, 1987.	
13	Differ this <u>25</u> day of september, 1907.	
14		/s/ Richard M. Bilby
14		Richard M. Bilby, Chief Judge
15		Richard M. Bilby, Chief Judge
		Richard M. Bilby, Chief Judge
15		Richard M. Bilby, Chief Judge
15 16		Richard M. Bilby, Chief Judge
15 16 17		Richard M. Bilby, Chief Judge
15 16 17 18		Richard M. Bilby, Chief Judge
15 16 17 18 19		Richard M. Bilby, Chief Judge
15 16 17 18 19 20		Richard M. Bilby, Chief Judge
15 16 17 18 19 20 21		Richard M. Bilby, Chief Judge
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22		Richard M. Bilby, Chief Judge
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23		Richard M. Bilby, Chief Judge
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24		Richard M. Bilby, Chief Judge
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25		Richard M. Bilby, Chief Judge

APPENDIX B

PROCEDURES FOR STORAGE OF COURT REPORTERS' NOTES AND TAPES

All original notes and tapes are to be relegated to the Clerk of Court within 90 days after the conclusion of the proceeding. If a transcript is ordered on a case on which the notes have been submitted to the Clerk, the court reporter shall retrieve the notes from storage and shall refile the notes when the transcript is submitted.

<u>Procedures Storage of Original Notes.</u>

- 1. All notes are to be chronologically filed and placed in FRC boxes which can be obtained from the Clerk's office.
- 2. The outside of the box should be marked with a label indicating the court reporter's name and the calendar year, month and dates contained within. For example:

"Jones - Box 85-1

January 1 to 31, 1985"

- 3. If the notes for a particular month are too voluminous to be stored in one box, use as many boxes as necessary and identify them in sequence. E.g., Box 85-1(A), Box 85-1(B), Box 85-1(C) would all contain notes for January, 1985. Conversely, if the notes for a particular month do not fill one box, several months' notes may be stored in that box as long as it is identified as follows: Box 85-1, 85-2, 85-3.
- 4. Each packet of notes is to be certified and should include the case number, case caption, presiding judge, date of proceeding and court reporter's name.

5. Each box of notes must contain a <u>Filing Certification Form for Original Notes</u> (Enclosure 1), accompanied by a copy of the Weekly Court Attendance Sheet which corresponds to the notes contained in the box. A duplicate is to be furnished to the Court Reporting Supervisor.

In order to maintain the security of original notes, it is recommended that each reporter place his/her notes in packets on a daily basis and secure them at the end of the day within his/her office.

$\underline{Procedure\ for\ Storage\ of\ Original\ Tape\ Recordings}.$

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. Section 753(b), court reporters are required to file with the Clerk of Court either a transcript or an electronic sound recording of all arraignments, pleas, sentences, and other proceedings required by court. Accordingly, all tape recordings of official proceedings are to be turned over to the Clerk of Court within 90 days after the conclusion of a proceeding. Each tape, or series of tapes if they pertain to one trial, must be accompanied by a Filing Certification Form for Tape Recordings (Enclosure 2). A duplicate of this form is to be furnished to the Court Reporting Supervisor.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

FILING CERTIFICATION FORM FOR ORIGINAL NOTES

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. Section 753, I hereby certify that the original notes tendered herein for filing with the Clerk of Court are the full, true and correct notes taken during oral proceedings in the United States District Court for the District of Arizona and includes District Court, Magistrate, and other official hearings held in said district as specified on the attached Weekly Court Attendance Sheet.

(Date)	(Signature of Court Reporter)

NOTE: This form must be accompanied by the appropriate Weekly Court Attendance Sheet.

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

TO:	D: CLERK, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF		FOR THE
appointed	I,, certify that I am a duly (name of court reporter) nted official court reporter for the United States District Court named above, and that I		
present in	the courtroom of said cou	ert on the day of	, 19 and in the
regular co	urse of my profession mad	de an electronic sound recordi	ng of the proceedings, including the
arraignme	nt, pleas, and sentence pro	oceedings had in the following	g cases:
	<u>Document Number</u>	Name of Defendant	Nature of Proceeding (Arraignment, plea, sentence)
that it can	be transcribed without up to which this certificate is	y intelligible when played on ndue difficulty, and that I filed attached.	a

	(Signature)
(Place)	
(Date)	

APPENDIX C

COURT REPORTING AND RECORDERS GUIDELINES FOR ABSENCE AND LEAVE USAGE

I. PURPOSE

To inform court reporters and recorders of their office hours, and duties and responsibilities with respect to leave administration.

II. <u>SCOPE</u>

These guidelines cover attendance, types of leave earned, and the most common types of absences and leave usage.

III. <u>CONTENT</u>

These guidelines specifically define policies regarding leave usage.

IV. OFFICE COURT REPORTERS' AND RECORDERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Observing the office hours which are 8:30 a.m., to 5:00 p.m., daily.
- B. Being present in the courthouse during the business day unless otherwise authorized by the Court Reporting Supervisor.
- C. Requesting leave and securing written approval from the Court Reporting Supervisor, in advance, at the earliest opportunity.
- D. Submitting acceptable evidence to the Court Reporting Supervisor to support leave when required to do so.

V. <u>LEAVE ACCRUAL</u>

A. Sick Leave

At its March, 1984 session, the Judicial Conference of the United States approved the following policy:

Court reporters who are assigned regular tours of duty are to earn sick leave according to the Leave Act. Thus, the Conference's policy on sick leave adopted at its March 1982 meeting is rescinded. Sick leave will be authorized only in accordance with the Leave Act.

Court reporters and recorders earn and are credited with four (4) hours of sick leave for each full bi-weekly pay period.

B. Annual Leave

1. The Judicial Conference, at its March, 1983 session, adopted the following guideline with respect to granting annual leave to court reporters:

Beginning with the 1984 leave year (effective January 8, 1984) a reporter who has been placed on a regular tour of duty consisting of a set number of work hours per week in the courthouse, specified in advance, during which hours the reporter may generate transcripts but may not perform any private (free-lance) work of any kind, the reporter is to earn annual leave in accordance with the Leave Act, 5 U.S.C. Section 6301 et seq.

- 2. Since this Court has amended its Management Plan to reflect that a 40-hour tour of duty for court reporters has been established, which requires them to be present in the courthouse and which specifies that they cannot undertake private reporting assignments, annual leave is provided to official court reporters.
- 3. Court reporters and recorders earn and are credited with annual leave per pay period according to their years of service with the federal courts as follows:
 - a. Less than three years -- four hours for each full bi-weekly pay period.
 - b. More than three but less than 15 years -- six hours for each full bi-weekly pay period, except that accrual for the last full bi-weekly pay period in the calendar year is 10 hours.
 - c. Fifteen years or more -- eight hours for each full bi-weekly pay period.
- 4. The granting of annual leave to reporters and recorders by the Clerk of Court is subject to the court reporting requirements of this Court.
- 5. A reporter or recorder may accumulate up to 240 hours of annual leave and carry up to that amount into the next year.
- 6. If a reporter or recorder retires, resigns, or is otherwise separated, he/she is paid for any unused annual leave.

VI. <u>LEAVE PROCEDURES</u>

A. Sick Leave

- 1. Sick leave is granted to court reporters and recorders when they are incapacitated due to:
 - a. Sickness, injury or pregnancy and confinement.
 - b. Medical, dental or optical examination or treatment.
 - c. When a member of the immediate family of the reporter is afflicted with a disease and requires the care and attendance of the reporter.
 - d. When, through exposure to contagious disease, the presence of the reporter at his or her

post of duty would jeopardize the health of others.

- 2. Written application for sick leave for medical, dental or optical examination should be made on an SF71 form and submitted to the Court Reporting Supervisor in advance of the requested leave date.
- 3. Court reporters and recorders may be required to submit a medical certificate for sick leave absences in excess of three work days or more. The Clerk of Court may request evidence of sick leave of any duration and, if so requested, the medical certificate should be submitted to the Clerk of Court within three days after the reporters' return to duty.
 - 4. Court reporters and recorders are responsible for personally:
 - a. Notifying the Court Reporting Supervisor by 8:30 a.m., on the workday of their illness or injury. If a reporter is too ill to make the call, she/he is expected to have a family member contact the Court Reporting Supervisor. If a family member reports the illness, the reporter should call the Court Reporting Supervisor as soon as he/she is able to do so.
 - b. Keeping the Court Reporting Supervisor informed of their expected return to duty date.
 - c. Submitting an SF71 immediately upon return to work to the Court Reporting Supervisor.
- 5. A court reporter or recorder may request advanced sick leave for serious medical reasons. If the request is for three work days or more, the SF71 form must be accompanied by a medical certificate.

B. Annual Leave

- 1. Annual leave is provided for the purpose of attending to personal business or emergencies and for allowing an annual vacation.
- 2. Written application for annual leave should be on an SF71 form and approved five working days before the requested day.

C. <u>Leave Without Pay (LWOP)</u>

- 1. In most cases, LWOP is the result of a lack of sufficient annual or sick leave to cover all or a portion of a requested period of absence and is not granted until the reporter or recorder has exhausted his/her annual leave and/or sick leave.
 - 2. LWOP must be requested and approved prior to the commencement of the leave.
- 3. An SF71 form and a memorandum specifying the reasons and the time period must be furnished by the reporter for LWOP requests.

D. Absence for Maternity Purposes

Maternity Leave is chargeable to sick leave or any combination of sick leave, annual leave, compensatory time, or Leave Without Pay.

Maternity leave may be used to cover the time required for physical examinations and to cover the period of incapacitation. The period of authorized maternity leave is normally twelve (12) weeks, not more than four (4) weeks before the expected date of delivery, and not more than eight (8) weeks after the delivery date. If the period of incapacitation exceeds beyond the eight week period after delivery, a medical certificate is required.

Leave Without Pay beyond the eight (8) week period may be authorized by the Clerk of Court for up to a total of six (6) weeks. All requests for time off duty beyond eight weeks, however, must be made in writing to the Clerk of Court.

A Court Reporter's or Recorder's responsibilities:

- 1. A reporter or recorder shall make known her intent to request leave for maternity reasons, including the type of leave to be charged, approximate dates, and anticipated duration, as soon as the pregnancy is confirmed.
- 2. Duration of the maternity leave shall be determined by the reporter and her physician, subject to the approval of the Clerk of Court.
- 3. In order to assist this office in determining the types of leave to be charged to maternity leave, a physician's statement attesting to the period of incapacitation is preferred.
 - 4. Leave requests shall be processed in accordance with regular office leave policy.
- 5. A reporter planning to return to work must indicate this fact to the Court Reporting Supervisor when applying for maternity leave.

E. Absence for Paternity Reasons.

1. A male reporter may request only annual leave, compensatory time, or Leave Without Pay for purposes of assisting or caring for his minor children or the mother of his newborn child while she is incapacitate for maternity reasons.

F. Court Leave.

Court Leave may be granted if you are summoned to serve as a juror. Because you continue to earn your regular salary while serving as a juror, you are entitled to be compensated for mileage and, if required, a travel or subsistence allotment. Any additional compensation received for jury duty must be turned in to the Financial Deputy.

Court leave may also be granted if you are subpoenaed by a government agency to appear as a witness on behalf of the United States, the District of Columbia, or a state or local governmental agency. You are not entitled to court leave if the witness service is on behalf on a private party or if you witness service on behalf of a private party or if you volunteer to serve as a witness. Because you are making an appearance in an official capacity, you continue to receive your appearance in an official capacity, you continue to receive your regular salary and are entitled to be compensated for mileage and/or travel expenses. Any fees or additional compensation received must be turned in to the Financial Deputy.

Anytime you receive a summons for jury duty or a subpoena from a governmental agency, notify your Court Reporting Supervisor as soon as possible.

G. Administrative Leave.

1. Reporters will be granted administrative leave as outlined in 3.09 of the Clerk's Office Personnel Manual.

- 2. Reporters who participate in professional organizational workshops and seminars as an instructor or participant may be granted administrative leave if adequate resources are available to meet anticipated reporting needs and if transcript orders and quarterly and annual reports are current. The employee must submit a written request to the Court Reporting Supervisor a minimum of 5 working days prior to the anticipated leave.
- 3. Administrative leave extended for any of the reasons enumerated in section 3.09 of the Personnel Manual and item 2 above will not exceed an accumulation of 10 days (80) hours in any leave year. Leave taken in excess of 80 hours will be charged to the employee's annual leave.